(c) No. Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Under-Utilisation of Biogas Potentials

3547. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Biogas potential remains grossly under-utilised frame dung policy" appearing in the Newsitem dated the 25th March, 1997;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction to the observations made therein;

(c) the details of investment made in harnessing energy potentials of biogas so far and results achieved thereunder significant achievemnets made and areas of concern noticed and corrections proposed to be carried out;

(d) whether Government are working on a comprehensive national dung policy beyond 2000 AD; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The news report has rightly pointed out a large variation in the estimates of the amount of dung produced in the country worked out by various organisations at different times and the need to exploit the full potential of biogas. However, it was incorrect that the government was planning to scrap the subsidy on biogas plants.

(c) Under the Central Sector Scheme—"National Project on Biogas Development (NPBD), a total sum of about Rs. 800 crore has been released to different States and programme inplementing agencies and a total of about 25.35 lakh family type biogas plants have been set up during the period 1991-92 to 1996-97. While the functionality of biogas plants has been improving year after year, the main reasons for slow progress are: (i) high cost of installation of biogas plants, (ii) difficulties in availing bank loans, (iii) lock of awareness and adequate maintenance facilities at village level, and (iv) budgetary constraints. Research projects are in progress for developing low cost designs.The Reserve Bank of India has issued guidelines to all commercial banks for increasing their participation in the biogas programme. The Government continues to advertise benefits of biogas plants through All India Radio, Doordarshan and national and regional dailies and is organising training of potential users also.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. However, a comprehensive policy on renewable energy including biogas is under preparation.

Under-Utilisation of Wind Power

3548. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "case of all wind, no energy," appearing in the Hindustan Times dated 26th March, 1997;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction on the reported setback to wind power generation programme due to faulty policy planning, resulting into under-utilisation or failure of wind technolgies at operational stage for faulty data on wind velocity provided by Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources; and

(c) the details of action plan formulated for correction of past mistakes and to put the programme on sound basis, during the 9th Five Year Plan?